

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Asenovgrad-Kürdzhalı Road	DATE DISTR.	22 July 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. A mountain road running along the northeastern fringe of the eastern Rhodopes was constructed in 1950 with the apparent intention of improving communications between Asenovgrad (N 42-00, E 24-52) and Kürdzhalı (N 41-39, E 25-22). The work was done by Trudovaks of the 2 Trudovak Brigade with headquarters in Plovdiv, units of which force are at present engaged in constructing a road between Batak (N 41-56, E 24-03) and Debrushtitsa (N 42-05, E 24-15) in the western Rhodopes.
2. The road built in 1950 starts at Novakovo (N 41-53, E 25-04), 23 kilometers by road southeast of Asenovgrad, and ends at Kumoniga (N 41-48, E 25-13), covering a distance of 28 kilometers. Its average width is five meters. There are no excessively steep slopes and all curves are well constructed so that the road can be said to be suitable for all types of traffic. The surface consists of gravel and dirt, well bound, and is in good condition throughout. This is probably largely due to the fact that the road is not normally called upon to carry any great weight of traffic (on a week day in May 1954, the only vehicles encountered on it were one bus and one truck). If suddenly subjected to a substantially greater volume of traffic, especially heavy military traffic, it is considered that the road surface would tend to break up fairly quickly. Some deterioration caused by bad drainage is currently apparent in a few places, notably near Kumoniga where ruts have been formed over a distance of about three kilometers.
3. The approach road to Novakovo from Asenovgrad passes through Cherven (N 41-57, E 24-57) and Dolnoslav (N 41-55, E 24-59) to reach Topolovo (N 41-53, E 25-01). It varies in width between three and four meters and has dirt shoulders one meter wide on either side. The surface is of gravel and dirt and is good in places and only moderate in other places. Between Dolnoslav and Topolovo, a short stretch has a total width of only 3.5 meters and includes a short bridge over a gully with right angle bends at either end. Topolovo and Novakovo are joined by a winding road, eight kilometers long, which varies in width between three and five meters (including shoulders) and is in moderate to bad condition. Drainage ditches are overgrown.

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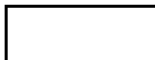
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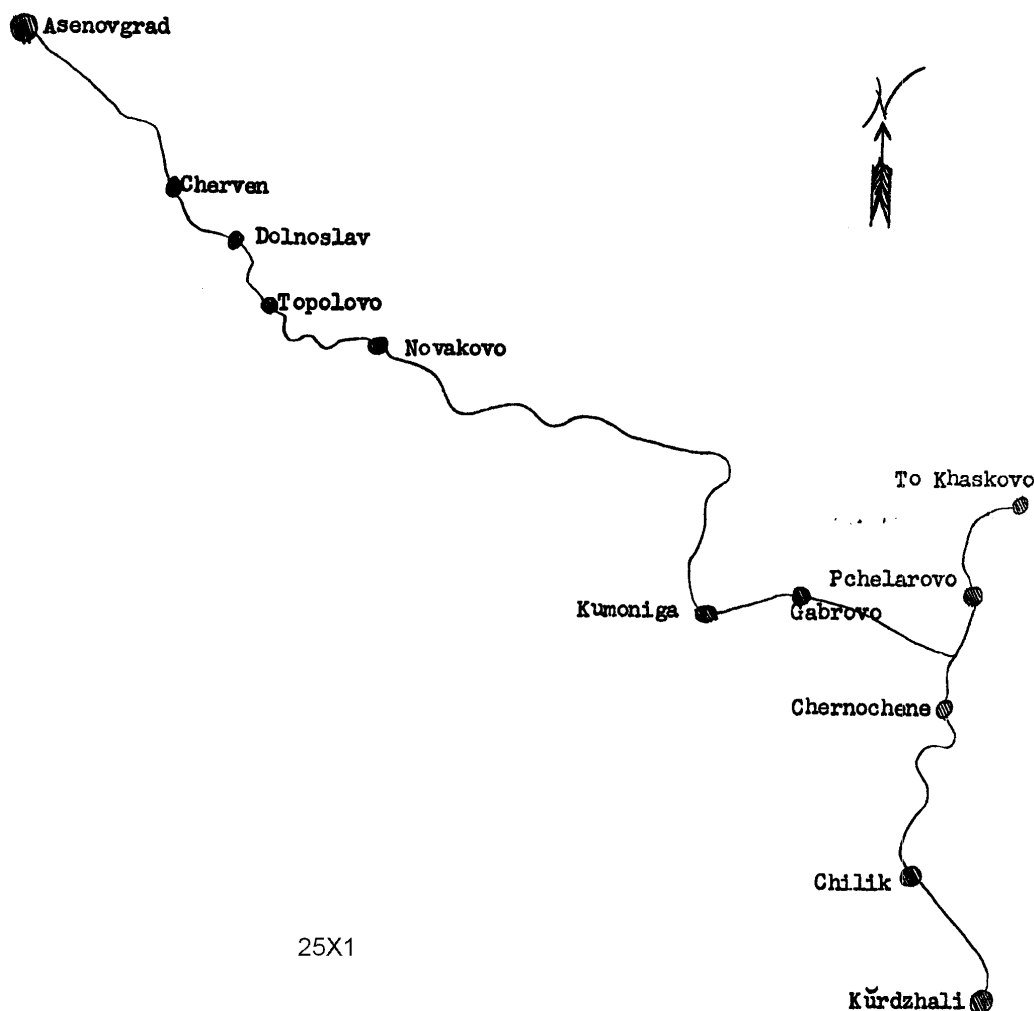
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4. Another road (apparently new) connects Kumoniga, via Gabbovo (N 41-48, E 25-16), with the main road between Kürdzhalı and Khaskovo, at a point midway between the villages of Pchelarovo (N 41-47, E 25-22), which is two kilometers north of the junction, and Chernochene (N 41-46, E 25-21), which is two kilometers south of the junction. This road, 13 kilometers long, varies in width between four and five meters, including dirt shoulders. Its earthbound gravel surface is in excellent condition.
5. The total distance between Asenovgrad and Kürdzhalı by the roads described above is 85 kilometers. The following sketch shows the approximate alignment of the route:



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